NHamp
352.07
S53
1997

Annual Reports

for the Town of

SHARON

NEW HAMPSHIRE

1997

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Boston Library Consortium Member Libraries

http://www.archive.org/details/annualreportsoft1997shar

Annual Reports

for the Town of

SHARON

NEW HAMPSHIRE

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1997

N Hamp
352.07
S53
1997

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Town Officers.....5

Town Warrant.....8

Town Budget.....11

Tax Collector's Report.....17

Selectmen's Report.....20

Report of the Road Agent.....21

Report of the Planning Board.....23

Sharon Conservation Commission.....24

Sharon Natural and Historical Resources Committee.....26

Emergency Management Director's Report.....28

Report of Town Forest Fire Warden and State Forest Ranger....29

Sharon 911 Ordinance.....30

TOWN OFFICERS

MODERATOR

Hampton Howard	Term expires 1998

SELECTMEN

John W. Derby	Term expires 1998
Barry Rhodes	Term expires 1999
Barton Goodeve	Term expires 2000

TOWN CLERK

Linda Paris	Term expires 1998

TREASURER

Eleanor Butler	Term Expires 1998

COLLECTOR OF TAXES

Leslie Grady	Term Expires 1998

HIGHWAY AGENT

Peter Paris	Appointed

TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

Chester Bowles	Term Expires 1998

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

Diane Callahan	Term Expires 1998
Barbara Wilson	Term Expires 2000
Heather Robinson	Term Expires 2002

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Robert Boyd	Term Expires 1998
Harry Dermody	Term Expires 1999
Charles Johnson	Term Expires 2000
Diane Callahan	Term Expires 2001
Richard Dufresne	Term Expires 2002

PLANNING BOARD

Chester Bowels	Term Expires 1998
John Butler	Term Expires 1999
Forrest Cook	Term Expires 2000
Kenneth Callahan	Term Expires 2001
Barry Rhodes	Ex Officio

TOWN FOREST ADVISORY COMMISSION

Barton Goodeve	Selectman
Karen DeBonis	Conservation Commission
James Martens	Term Expires
Charles Johnson	Term Expires
Cathleen Arco	Alternate

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Kenneth Callahan	Term Expires 1998
Karen Debonis	Term Expires 1999
Lori Groleau	Term Expires 2000
Gina Goff	Term Expires 2001
Bruce Matthews	Term Expires 2002
James Husbands	Alternate
Peter Paris	Alternate
John Milton Street	Emeritus

HEALTH OFFICER

Will Fenno, MD	Appointed

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Timothy Groesbeck	Appointed

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Chester Bowles	Term Expires 1996

FOREST FIRE WARDEN

Barton Goodeve	Appointed

DEPUTY FOREST FIRE WARDENS

Kenneth Callahan	Appointed
John W. Derby	Appointed

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Barry Rhodes	Appointed

TOWN OF SHARON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN WARRANT

To the inhabitants of the Town of Sharon, New Hampshire, in the County of Hillsborough, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet in the Brick Schoolhouse in said Town on Tuesday, March 10, 1998 at 11:00 in the forenoon to ballot for Town Officers and other questions required by law to be decided by ballot. The polls will be closed at 7:00PM. The business meeting will start at 7:30PM on the same date at the Sharon Arts Center.

ARTICLE 1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to set the following amounts which shall be paid to the Town Officers for their services, or take any action relative thereto:

COMPENSATION SCHEDULE

Selectmen	$1,500 per year plus $2,500 expenses
Town Clerk	$1,500 per year plus fees
Assistant Town Clerk	$500 per year
Collector of Taxes	$2,500 per year
Treasurer	$1,500 per year
Trustee of Trust Funds	$50 per year
Moderator	$40 per session
Supervisors of the Checklist	$7 per hour
Fire Warden	$100 per year
Building Inspector	$75 per permit issued
Emergency Management Director	$500 per year

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for the purposes specified, or take any action relative thereto:

ACCOUNT	DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT
4130	Executive	$ 7,300
4140	Election and Registration	4,100
4150	Financial Administration	12,000
4153	Legal Expensive	1,000
4191	Planning and Zoning	2,500
4194	General Government Building	500
4195	Cemeteries	500
4196	Insurance	3,700
4215	Ambulance	3,393
4220	Fire	12,951
4290	Emergency Management	500
4312	Highways	50,000
4316	Street Lighting	300
4324	Solid Waste Disposal	27,799
4411	Animal Control	250
4619	Conservation Commission	400
4723	Interest-Tax Anticipation	300
4442	Welfare	3,500

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $518 for the Home Health Care and Community Services, Account 4415, or take any action relative thereto. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $298 for the Monadnock Family Services, Account 4415, or take any action relative thereto. The Selectman recommend the appropriation.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,500, Account 4550, as the Town's share of the operating expenses of the Peterborough Library, or take any action relative thereto. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $250 for the future revaluation of the Town and to place said sum in Account 4915, a Capital Reserve Account for said purpose, or take any action relative thereto. The Selectman recommend this appropriation.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote (1) to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of construction of a new town office building, Account 4915, (2) to see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to be placed in this fund, and (3) to designate the Selectmen as agents to expend, or take any action relative thereto. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $19,000 for the repair and shimming of Temple Road, Account 4313, or take any action relative thereto. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $11,000 for the repair and shimming of Nashua Road, from the intersection of Temple Road to the intersection of Route 123, Account 4313, or take any action relative thereto. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,500 to replace the culvert at the bridge site on Cross Road, subject to the granting of a Dredge and Fill Permit by the State, Account 4313, or take any action relative thereto. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the office of tax collector as an elected office, such office to be succeeded by the appointed office of tax collector, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13. To transact any other business which legally shall come before this meeting.

Given under our hand and seals at said Sharon this 11th day of February, 1998.

Selectmen:

John W. Derby Barry Rhodes Barton D. Goodeve

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION
MUNICIPAL SERVICES DIVISION
61 So.Spring St., P.O.Box 1122
Concord, NH 03302-1122
(603) 271-3397

MS-6

BUDGET OF THE TOWN

OF Sharon N.H.

Appropriations and Estimates of Revenue for the Ensuing Year January 1, 1998 to December 31, 1998 or for Fiscal Year From

_____ to _____

IMPORTANT: Please read RSA 32:5 applicable to all municipalities.

1. Use this form to list the entire budget in the appropriate recommended and not recommended area. This means the operating budget and all special and individual warrant articles must be posted.

2. Hold at least one public hearing on this budget.

3. When completed, a copy of the budget must be posted with the warrant. Another copy must be placed on file with the town clerk, and a copy sent to the Department of Revenue Administration at the address above.

Date 2/23/98

John W. Derby

Barry Rhodes

[illegible]

SELECTMEN (PLEASE SIGN IN INK)

THIS BUDGET SHALL BE POSTED WITH THE TOWN WARRANT

(Revised 1996)

Acct. No.	PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATIONS (RSA 31:4)	Warr Art. #	Appropriations Prior Year As Approved By DRA	Actual Expenditures Prior Year	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (RECOMMENDED)	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (NOT RECOMMENDED)
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT		XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4130-4139	Executive	3	6,300	5,524	7,300	
4140-4149	Election,Reg.& Vital Statistics	3	4,000	4,205	4,100	
4150-4151	Financial Administration	3	12,000	11,071	12,000	
4152	Revaluation of Property					
4153	Legal Expense	3	500		1,000	
4155-4159	Personnel Administration					
4191-4193	Planning & Zoning	3	3,000	834	2,500	
4194	General Government Buildings	3	400	300	500	
4195	Cemeteries	3	500	294	500	
4196	Insurance	3	1,700	3,642	3,700	
4197	Advertising & Regional Assoc.					
4199	Other General Government					
	PUBLIC SAFETY		XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4210-4214	Police					
4215-4219	Ambulance	3	3,564	3,814	3,393	
4220-4229	Fire	3	11,537	11,287	12,951	
4240-4249	Building Inspection					
4290-4298	Emergency Management	3			500	
4299	Other Public Safety (including Communications)					
	HIGHWAYS AND STREETS		XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4311-4312	Administration & Highways & Streets	3	50,000	39,449	50,000	
4313	Bridges					
4316-4319	Street Lighting & Other	3	300	300	300	
	SANITATION		XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4321-4323	Administration & Solid Waste Collection					
4324-4325	Solid Waste Disposal & Cleanup	3	23,709	23,709	27,799	
4326-4329	Sewage Collection & Disposal & Other					
	WATER DISTRIBUTION & TREATMENT		XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4331-4332	Administration & Water Services					

Year 1998 Budget of the Town of Sharon MS-

Acct. No.	PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATIONS (RSA 31:4)	Warr Art. #	Appropriations Prior Year As Approved By DRA	Actual Expenditures Prior Year	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (RECOMMENDED)	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (NOT RECOMMENDED)
4335-4339 Water Treatment, Conservation & Other						
ELECTRIC			XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4351-4352 Administration & Generation						
4353 Purchase Costs						
4354 Electric Equipment Maintenance						
4355-4359 Other Electric Costs						
HEALTH						
4411-4414 Administration & Pest Control		3	250		250	
4415-4419 Health Agencies & Hospitals & Other		4,5	768	768	816	
WELFARE			XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4441-4442 Administration & Direct Assistance		3	5,000	1,758	3,500	
4444 Intergov.Welfare Payments						
4445-4449 Vendor Payments & Other						
CULTURE & RECREATION			XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4520-4529 Parks & Recreation						
4550-4559 Library		3	2,500	2,500	2,500	
4583 Patriotic Purposes						
4589 Other Culture & Recreation						
CONSERVATION			XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4611-4612 Administration & Purchases of Natural Resources				3,000		
4619 Other Conservation		3	600	427	400	
4631-2 REDEVELOPMENT & HOUSING						
4651-9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT						
DEBT SERVICE			XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4711 Princ.- Long Term Bonds & Notes						
4712 Interest-Long Term Bonds & Notes						
4723 Interest on TANs		3	300		300	
4790-4799 Other Debt Service						
CAPITAL OUTLAY			XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
4901 Land & Improvements						
4902 Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment						

Acct. No.	PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATIONS (RSA 31:4)	Warr Art. #	Appropriations Prior Year As Approved By DRA	Actual Expenditures Prior Year	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (Recommended)	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (Not Recommended)
4903 Buildings				250		
4909 Improv.Other Than Buildings						
	OPERATING TRANSFERS OUT		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
4912 To Special Revenue Fund						
4913 To Capital Projects Fund						
4914 To Enterprise Fund						
	Sewer-					
	Water-					
	Electric-					
4915 To Capital Reserve Fund		3	250		250	
4916 To Expendable Trust Funds (except Health Maint. Trust Fund)						
4917 To Health Maintenance Trust Fund						
4918 To Nonexpendible Trust Funds						
4919 To Agency Funds						
	SUBTOTAL 1		127,178	113,132	134,559	

Please note: "Individual" warrant articles are not necessarily the same as "special warrant articles", which are addressed below.

Acct. No.	PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATIONS (RSA 31:4)	Warr Art. #	Appropriations Prior Year As Approved By DRA	Expenditures Prior Year	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (Recommended)	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (Not Recommended)
	INDIVIDUAL WARRANT ARTICLES					
4311	Highway Improvements	9			19,000	
4311	Highway Improvements	10			11,000	
4313	Bridge Improvements	11			1,500	
	SUBTOTAL 2 Recommended		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	31,500	XXXXXXXXXX

Special warrant articles are defined in RSA 32:3, VI, as 1) petitioned warrant articles; 2) an article whose appropriations is raised by bonds or notes; 3) an article which calls for an appropriation to a separate fund created pursuant to law, such as capital reserve funds or trust funds; and 4) any article designated on the warrant as a special article or as nonlapsing or nontransferable article.

Acct. No.	PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATIONS (RSA 31:4)	Warr Art. #	Appropriations Prior Year As Approved By DRA	Actual Expenditures Prior Year	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (Recommended)	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (Not Recommended)
	SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES					
	SUBTOTAL 3 Recommended					

Acct. No.	SOURCE OF REVENUE	Warr. Art.#	Estimated Revenue Prior Year	Actual Revenue Prior Year	ESTIMATED REVENUE For Ensuring Fiscal Year
	TAXES		XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
3120	Land Use Change Taxes				
3180	Resident Taxes				
3185	Yield Taxes		5,000	8,244	5,000
3186	Payment in Lieu of Taxes				
3189	Other Taxes				
3190	Interest & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes		5,000	4,738	5,000
	Inventory Penalties				
	LICENSES,PERMITS & FEES		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
3210	Business Licenses & Permits			94	
3220	Motor Vehicle Permit Fees		35,000	40,683	40,000
3230	Building Permits			75	50
3290	Other Licenses,Permits & Fees		500	502	500
3311-3319	FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT				
	FROM STATE		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
3351	Shared Revenues		6,754	3,377	3,000
3352	Meals & Rooms Tax Distribution		3,429		
3353	Highway Block Grant		14,851	14,851	14,441
3354	Water Pollution Grant				
3355	Housing & Community Development				
3356	State & Federal Forest Land Reimbursement		233	7,240	200
3357	Flood Control Reimbursement				
3359	Other (Including Railroad Tax)			4,938	
3379	FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS				
	CHARGES FOR SERVICES		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
3401-3406	Income from Departments				
3409	Other Charges				
	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
3501	Sale of Municipal Property				
3502	Interest on Investments		2,000	2,763	2,500
3503-3509	Other			2,046	
	INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS IN		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
3912	Special Revenue Funds				

Acct. No.	SOURCE OF REVENUE	Warr. Art.#	Estimated Revenue Prior Year	Actual Revenue Prior Year	ESTIMATED REVENUE For Ensuring Fiscal Year
3912 Special Revenue Funds					
3913 Capital Projects Fund					
3914 Enterprise Fund					
	Sewer - (Offset)				
	Water - (Offset)				
	Electric - (Offset)				
3915 Capital Reserve Fund					
3916 Trust & Agency Funds					
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXX
3934 Proc.from Long Term Bonds & Notes					
Amounts Voted From "Surplus"			XXXXXXXXX		
"Surplus" Used in Prior Year to Reduce Taxes			XXXXXXXXX		XXXXXXXXX
	TOTAL REVENUES		72,767	89,551	70,691

BUDGET SUMMARY

SUBTOTAL 1 Recommended (from page 3)	134,559
SUBTOTAL 2 "Individual" warrant articles (from page 3)	31,500
SUBTOTAL 3 Special warrant articles as defined by law (from page 3)	
TOTAL Appropriations Recommended	166,059
Less: Amount of Estimated Revenues (Exclusive of Property Taxes) (from above)	70,691
Amount of Taxes To Be Raised	95,368

HELP! We ask your assistance in the following: If you have a line item of appropriations from more than one warrant article, please use the space below to identify the make-up of the line total for the ensuing year.

Acct. No.	W.A. No.	Amount		Acct.No.	W.A. No.	Amount
4415	4	518				
4415	5	298				

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

MS-61

FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF SHARON YEAR ENDING 1997

DEBITS	Levy for Year of this Report	PRIOR LEVIES (Please specify years) 1996		
UNCOLLECTED TAXES-BEG. OF YEAR* :				
Property Taxes		$ 28,736.45		
Resident Taxes		NA		
Land Use Change		--		
Yield Taxes		--		
Utilities		NA		
TAXES COMMITTED-THIS YEAR:				
Property Taxes #3110	$505,610.20			
Resident Taxes #3180	NA			
Land Use Change #3120	--			
Yield Taxes #3185	8,244.17			
Utilities #3189	NA			
OVERPAYMENT:				
Property Taxes	145.95	24.30		
Resident Taxes	NA	NA		
Land Use Change	--	—		
Yield Taxes	--	—		
Bank overdraft fee	20.00	—		
Interest Collected on Delinquent Tax #3190	586.54	1,346.41		
~~#3190~~ LIEN COSTS		234.50		
TOTAL DEBITS	$514,606.86	$ 30,341.66	$	$

* This amount should be the same as the last year's ending balance. If not, please explain.

1

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

MS-61

FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF SHARON YEAR ENDING 1997

CREDITS	Levy for Year of this Report	PRIOR LEVIES (Please specify years) 1996		
REMITTED TO TREASURER:				
Property Taxes	$472,710.43	$ 19,564.70		
Resident Taxes	NA	NA		
Land Use Change	--	--		
Yield Taxes	7,706.33	--		
Utilities	NA	NA		
Interest	586.54	886.91		
Penalties bank O/d fee	20.00			
Conversion to Lien Property tax and interest	--	9,171.75		
costs		694.00		
overpayments	145.95	24.30		
ABATEMENTS MADE:				
Property Taxes				
Resident Taxes				
Land Use Change				
Yield Taxes				
Utilities				
Current Levy Deeded				
UNCOLLECTED TAXES-END OF YEAR: #1080				
Property Taxes	32,899.33			
Resident Taxes	NA			
Land Use Change	--			
Yield Taxes	537.84			
Utilities	NA			
inexpedient to collect	.44			
TOTAL CREDITS	$514,606.86	$ 30,341.66	$	$

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

MS-61

FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF SHARON YEAR ENDING 1997

DEBITS	Last Year's Levy 96	PRIOR LEVIES (Please specify years) 95	94	
Unredeemed Liens Balance at Beg. of Fiscal Yr.	--	$ 6,133.92	$ 3,324.51	
Liens Executed During Fiscal Yr.	$ 9,865.75	--	--	
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution)	209.76	1,128.70	1,179.30	
overpayment			.58	
TOTAL DEBITS	$ 10,075.51	$ 7,262.62	$ 4,504.39	$

REMITTED TO TREASURER:	Levy for Year of this Report	PRIOR LEVIES (Please specify years)		
Redemptions	$ 2,443.48	$ 6,133.92	$ 3,324.51	
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution) #3190	209.76	1,128.70	1,179.30	
overpayment			.58	
Abatements of Unredeemed Taxes				
Liens Deeded To Municipality				
Unredeemed Liens Bal. End of Yr. #1110	7,422.27			
TOTAL CREDITS	$10,075.51	$ 7,262.62	$ 4,504.39	$

Does your municipality commit taxes on a semi-annual basis (RSA 76:15-a) ? YES

TAX COLLECTOR'S SIGNATURE Leone Gordy DATE: Jan.16,1998

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

John Derby's retirement after 24 years as a Sharon Selectman is the end of an era in town government. No other person has ever served for so long in this difficult job. John's personal service to anyone who needed a permit signed or information from town records will be sorely missed.

The most vexing problem for your Selectman this year has been the burglaries of three homes on Mill Road and one home on Jarmany Hill Road that was robbed twice. The State Police responded by saturating the area with patrols. They gathered forensic evidence from crime scenes. Perhaps most importantly, their visibility let people who live here feel that we were protected, while getting the word out to young people who came here to "cruise" that they were being watched. Conval High School administrators tightened-up student monitoring, the "cruising" has subsided.

Our special appreciation goes to the Peterborough Police, who at the request of the State Police, responded to several calls in Sharon.

The Selectmen are pleased with the work being done by our new Road Agent, Peter Paris. This has been a tough year with the mixture of snow, rain and ice. Pete has worked well with various contractors to keep the roads passable. The Selectman are supporting the Road Agent's request for major repairs to several roads this year, while knowing that major work will need to be done for several years in order to bring town roads up to good condition.

The Selectman have received many complaints about Jarmany Hill Road, which is State maintained. We have been in frequent contact with the State Highway Department office in Swanzey and they report that since the road has not had major work done for three years it is likely to be shimmed this summer. No final decision will be made until the roads dry out.

Respectfully submitted:

John W. Derby Barry Rhodes Barton D. Goodeve

REPORT OF THE ROAD AGENT

April 1, 1997 started my new position with 30" of snow. Thanks to John Keurlainen, our past Road Agent, who continued on to see us thru this storm.

Winter came early starting with Nov. 14th. We had many snow and ice storms requiring more plowing and frequent sanding with a tally of 57" of snow till the end of January, which resulted in a build up of ice on the roads. Thus, this was a difficult winter in maintaining roads and more importantly keeping them safe for all. Better weather in February has allowed us to improve road conditions.

SUMMER OF '97

Yearly road grading on Cross, Swamp, and Mountain Roads. Installed gates on each end of Swamp and South Roads which should result in lower maintenance and repair work after mud season.

Installed new street signs on all town roads for the purpose of Emergency 911 system.

Re-established and squared-off boundary markers in McCoy Road Cemetery.

Road patching on all town roads which amounted to 40,000 lbs. of hot patch.

Wing walls, new rail bases and rails were installed on Cross Road Bridge. As a result of this improvement, there will be less erosion on top and around the bridge, which makes it safer for daily traffic and the school bus. This also improves the flow of the river passing beneath the bridge. (This work was done as a result of the damage to the bridge and road which occurred from the flooding of the river in the fall of '96.)

FUTURE WORK

Temple Road and Nashua Road (the Temple Road side), because of deterioration are in great need of repair. Those of you who drive these roads know what I mean. We must start now considering doing some repair work because of deterioration of our road system, which will be very costly in the future if the Town should defer this work any longer. I do hope you keep this in mind when you vote on the Articles in the Town Warrant.

Install a 48" culvert on Cross Road to act as an overflow so there will be no further damage to the road and bridge.

Continue improvements on Town Cemetery.

Install a gate on Street Road at the entrance to the Town Forest.

Continued road improvements.

I want to thank the Selectmen and townspeople for their support and cooperation during 1997.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter W. Paris
Road Agent
Town of Sharon, N.H.

Report of the Planning Board - 1997.

We offer many thanks to those of you who voted overwhelmingly in favor of the proposed changes in the Town's Zoning Regulations relating to improved clarity and scope of allowable uses of one's home for an occupation or business. Wihin the parameters defined and as one desires, it is felt that such use is entirely in keeping with the spirit of the Town.

Several small subdivisions were requested and approved during the year.

In October the Board started work on an update to the Town's Master Plan which was done most recently in 1983. This is required every ten years -- the Town has been a bit tardy in this endeavor.

To quote RSA 674, "--- the master plan shall be made with the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing coordinated and harmonious development which will, in accordance with existing and probable future needs, promote health, safety, order, convenience, prosperity, or the general welfare as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development".

In short, we're looking (a) at where we are, (b) at where we might want to be overall as a Town, and (c) to identify some of the problems that might arise together with options for their solution, and (d) at how to evaluate and exploit opportunities that might also come along.

A formal Master Plan includes a number of sections -- Objectives, Land Use, Housing, Transportation, Public Services, Community Facilities, Recreation, and Conservation -- some are more important than others. Public hearings are part of the process toward having an established plan that residents can understand and support.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Butler, Chairman

SHARON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Members: Karen DeBonis (Chair), Lori Groleau, Gina Goff, Ken Callahan, Bruce Matthews, and Jim Husbands
Milt Street (Honorary)

Wetlands: Two wetlands were inventoried by the Conservation Commission in 1997, bringing the total to ten. Future inventories will be concentrated on wetlands over ten acres each along the Gridley River, Town Line Brook and Meadow Brook.

Conservation Fund: The Sharon Conservation Fund now has approximately $3,500. In 1997, $2,000 was pledged from the Fund to the Forest Society toward the acquisition of the Sharon Bog. The Fund was established at Town Meeting in 1994 and is added to from Current Use Change Taxes.

Training: Several members of the Conservation Commission attended seminars, including one on the cost of community services and open space.

Trails: The New England Forestry Foundation granted an easement on a section of the Wapack Trail to the Town of Sharon. This easement will be monitored annually by the Conservation Commission.

More work to clear historical trails in the 900+ acre Town Forest was accomplished by the Conservation Commission . This work will continue in the spring. We anticipate creating a "loop" trail, and replacing temporary flagging with more permanent trail markers. A guided nature hike for Sharon residents will be announced in 1998.

The Conservation Commission is researching how to insure that the Town Forest is protected permanently from development or sale.

Earth Day: Our 1997 Town Clean-up went fairly well. Volunteers cleaned up roads on their own schedules, rather than all on the same day. Trash was sorted and taken to the Recycling Center as usual.

1998 Clean-up is planned for Saturday, April 25. (Rain/snow date: May 2). Please mark your calendars -- we need your help! We would like to return to having this event be a group effort.

Land Protection: Members of the Conservation Commission continue to work on the new Natural Resources Committee which is studying open space and important features in Sharon.

Two large tracts of land owned by the Cabot family are for sale. One 211 acre piece goes up Temple Mountain and includes part of the Wapack Trail. The other piece measures 382 acres and has frontage on Jarmany Hill Road, Route 123, and Nashua Road. The Conservation Commission is attempting to keep in touch with the family and local land protection organizations about the future of this land.

At long last, an agreement to permanently protect the Sharon Bog is in place! The Society for the Protection of NH Forests is raising funds now to purchase the bog, and over 70 acres surrounding it, from Pike Industries. Several Sharon residents have already made contributions toward this important effort. More donations are urgently needed.

Other Projects: A 1997 Warrant Article proposed by the Conservation Commission was approved to contact PSNH to request that the company refrain from spraying toxic pesticides and herbicides in Sharon.

The Conservation Commission anticipates working closely with the Planning Board in 1998 to update the town's Master Plan.

The Sharon Conservation Commission meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the schoolhouse. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.

Sharon Natural and Historic Resources Committee

A committee of town residents has been working for over a year, surveying the town's public and private lands, identifying areas of significant ecological or recreational value. The purpose of this project is to promote and maintain an awareness within Sharon of the significant natural and historic resources which make the town unique and to define the reason many of us chose to live in this town.

To date, The Sharon Natural and Historic Resources Committee has completed a multi-tiered, acetate map identifying such things as the town's protected lands, recreational areas, productive forests, historical sites, and scenic view spots.

For 1998, the committee aims to analyze these findings, paying particular attention to the areas in Sharon with significant natural or historic resources which, in the committee's opinion, should be sustained. The committee coordinates its efforts with the Monadnock Conservancy, the Sharon Planning Board and Sharon Conservation Commission.

Thus far the committee has identified four significant areas or attributes of the town it feels are worth sustaining. The following list is a draft only.

1. *Aquifers, Watersheds, Wetlands*

Where - a.) Especially along the Gridley River, with emphasis on a section on Swamp Road
Why - To insure clean drinking water for public health and safety. Almost all transmutive sections along the Gridley River are protected now; protecting the rest would insure an uninterrupted buffer.

Where - b.) Sharon Bog
Why - It is an ecologically unique, historical and sensitive site.

2. *Town Forest*

Where - 900 +/- acres in the middle of town
Why - To insure the land remains forested and undeveloped.
The forest may not be permanently protected now, despite being owned by the town.
It is significant for recreational, historic,scenic, wildlife, open space and economic reasons.
The forest is one of the last large undeveloped tracts of land in town (with only trails, no roads).
Permanent protection of the forest may helps to enhance future property values for everyone

3. *Wildlife Habitat*

Where - a) Large tracts of undeveloped privately owned land.
b) Areas around already-protected land.
c) Wildlife corridors.
d) Land with water frontage (rivers, brooks, ponds).
e) Fields and open land.

Why - Sharon has an incredible diversity of wildlife that is important to sustain. Also, wildlife habitats in surrounding areas are shrinking due to development and "suburban sprawl."
According to survey results, maintaining habitat for wildlife is very important to Sharon residents. Wildlife provides recreational and educational opportunities for residents of all ages.

4. *Rural Character*

Where - The Entire Town!

Why - To many Sharonites we have spoken to , sustaining the invisibility factor" of the town and its "place in the woods" nature is critical. They believe that once rural character and open space is gone, it is gone forever.
Studies in other towns show that open spaces enhances property values and often costs the town much less than residential and/or commercial development

The Sharon Natural and Historic Resources Committee welcomes working with any Sharon resident interested in land protection. Members of the Committee are:
Gina Goff, Peet Rapp, Anne Sullivan, Don Burgess, Karen DeBonis, Will Fenno, and Wally Newton.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The implementation of the 911 Emergency System is finally a reality. If you need fire or ambulance help, dial 911. If you need to reach the police, dial 672-3333 for the State Police Barracks in Milford.

You are responsible for making sure that any emergency service provider can identify where you live. You need to have your new address number posted according to the town ordinance. Your old street number no longer appears on the 911 computers. If you have not already posted your number, please do so immediately. A timely response to your house is not possible if you don't post your new number.

It wouldn't be a normal year if we didn't have ice storms and power outages. Some people were lucky and didn't lose power during the ice storm, while others of us lost power for three days. People responded well, those who didn't have alternate forms of heat and power left town.

The crime wave that involved five burglaries of homes was a frightening situation. Fortunately, the major perpetrator was apprehended in Keene, having confessed to the Sharon burglaries after being incarcerated for another crime. An accomplice is still at large. This sadly brought Sharon in touch with the reality that the rest of the world has had to face for some time, namely that there are thieves at work where we live.

While this crime wave was hopefully just an isolated incident, it is important that we take a few simple precautions: lock the doors and windows to your house and do not leave your keys in your car. If you see any suspicious activity, call the State Police Barracks in Milford at 672-3333.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Rhodes
Emergency Management Director

REPORT OF TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

To aid your Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department and State Forest Ranger, contact your local Warden or Fire Department to find out if a permit is required. Violations of RSA 227-L:17, the fire permit law and the other burning laws of the State of New Hampshire are misdemeanors punishable by fines of up to $2,000 and/or a year in jail. Violators are also liable for all fire suppression costs.

There are ten Forest Rangers who work for the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, Forest Protection Bureau. State Forest Rangers are available to assist communities with forest fire suppression, prevention and training programs as well as the enforcement of forest fire and timber harvest laws. If you have any questions regarding forest fire or timber harvest laws, please call our office at 271-2217.

There are 2400 Forest Fire Wardens and Deputy Forest Fire Wardens throughout the state. Each town has a Forest Fire Warden and several Deputy Wardens who assist the Forest Rangers with forest fire suppression, prevention, and law enforcement. The 1997 fire season was a safe period for wildland firefighters with no major injuries reported. The drought conditions experienced during the early summer months was a significant factor resulting in the total number of fires reported during the season.

The State of New Hampshire operates 15 fire towers, 2 mobile patrols and 3 contract aircraft patrols. This early detection and reports from citizens aid in the quick response from local fire departments. This is a critical factor in controlling the size of wildland fires and keeping the loss of property and suppression costs as low as possible.

1997 FIRE STATISTICS

(All Fires Reported thru December 23, 1997)

FIRES REPORTED BY COUNTY		CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED	
Belknap	58	Smoking	54
Carroll	96	Debris Burning	261
Cheshire	63	Campfire	99
Coos	29	Power Line	33
Grafton	51	Railroad	3
Hillsborough	145	Equipment Use	23
Merrimack	148	Lightning	14
Rockingham	54	Children	60
Strafford	63	OHRV	0
Sullivan	19	Miscellaneous	130
		Incendiary	33
TOTAL FIRES	726	Fireworks	16
TOTAL ACRES	177.17		

Forest Ranger

Forest Fire Warden

SHARON 911 ORDINANCE

A. All owners of primary buildings within the corporate limits of the Town of Sharon shall affix, or cause to have affixed, the assigned street number in accordance with this section.

B. All properties with primary buildings shall display the assigned street number or script equivalent so as to be readily visible from the street.

1. For primary buildings readily visible from the street, the number(s) shall be conspicuously displayed on the side of the building that faces the street.

2. For primary buildings not readily visible from the street, the assigned street number(s) shall be conspicuously displayed at the point of entry to the property, so as to be visible on a year-round basis. The preferred method of display at the point of entry shall be on both sides of a mailbox. However, if a mailbox is not located at the point of entry, or if there is no mailbox, then the assigned street number shall be displayed on a sign post or by similar means at the point of entry.

3. Primary buildings visible from the street, and accessed by a common drive shall display the assigned street number(s) on the primary buildings. If primary buildings on a common drive are not visible from the street, then each assigned street number will be displayed at the street end of the drive so as to be visible on a year-round basis.

C. All street numbers, whether displayed on primary buildings, mailboxes or signs at driveway entrance, shall be of contrasting color to the means of support.

D. All street numbers displayed on primary buildings or property shall be at least 3 inches in height. The size of the numbers placed on mailboxes shall be in accordance with U.S. Postal Service Requirements.